TITUSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER, 1998

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Bud Hughes K4CWG 269-0779 SECRETARY: Nancy Marsden KD4ITX 268-3990
V. PRESIDENT: Pike Abell W4EPU 269-4208 TREASURER: Clyde Lee K4EOS 267-9375

CLUB INFORMATION

TARC MEETINGS :	**Monthly on 4th Tuesday at 1900 hrs at Jaycee Building.**
TARC NETS:	**VIP - Thursdays at 1000 hrs on 146.910**
	FRIENDSHIP - Thursdays at 1830 hrs. on146.910
	MOSQUITO - Wednesdays at 1900 hrs on 28.333
TARC REPEATERS:	**VHF - 146.910 and146.970. UHF 444.150**

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Bud Hughes K4CWG

For the first time in the history of TARC, your Board of Directors have developed an Absentee Ballot which we hope will permit all members to cast their ballot for the officers/Board members of their choice. Of course we all would rather you attend the November 24 election and take part in the annual election of officers and BOD members. However, there are those who for different reasons will be unable to attend the election night meeting. If you cannot be in attendance, please review and submit the absentee ballot in accordance with the instructions printed on the ballot. Should you have any problems with the ballot, please feel free to drop me a line, phone me, or contact me via e-mail address bhughes@expedient.com.

Many of you know about the ALERT team that is in our area. They are in Titusville at the request of Mayor Larry Bartley. The group is 22 plus in number and are from 17 to 21 years of age. They are students from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. The ALERT team is in the area performing all sorts of house painting, repairs to windows, doors, roofs, etc. to the homes of needy families.

One of the most interesting things is that in order to graduate they must have earned their amateur radio license. More than half of the students already have their license and are helping others obtain the same.

During their 2 to 3 week stay in this area they are being quartered at the Park Ave. Baptist Church. There are volunteers who are preparing their meals. The Jaycees provided dinner on Friday, Oct. 30. The Titusville Radio Club's ladies are to prepare the Tuesday evening meal. The meal will be served at the Jaycees Building at 6:00 PM.

Be sure and attend the next TARC meeting and participate in the election process. If unable to attend please submit your absentee ballot.

Best of 73's

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

NOV. 1 N2USO MARIE GENCORELLI
NOV. 1 KE4BBK ORA PROSSER
NOV. 4 KD4CBT CARL HUGHES
NOV. 9 KE4GOQ MIKE HADDAD
NOV.11 KF4TVV WILLIAM ENGLAND
NOV.11 W5RAQ RON RICHARDSON
NOV.14 KC4SYD CLIFF HOAG
NOV.16 KE4MXB BONNIE FROST
NOV.18 KE4TKC HARMONY BURDICK
NOV.21 KF4VAK MARY TYNER
NOV.22 AE4LE RALPH HALL
NOV.23 KS4JN RAYMOND HUDSON
NOV.25 KF4AUA LARRY BRUETT
NOV.25 AA4HP HANK PHILLIPS
NOV.26 KD4HNW KEN DENMAN
NOV.26 KC4HIO RICHARD SWEATT
NOV.27 KR4HS GEORGE SMITH
NOV.27 K4EGV CHARMAINE COFFMAN
NOV.28 KD4JBE HOOT GIBSON
NOV.28 K4VTY DAVE SPRINGER

A DATE STANDARD FOR AMATEUR RADIO

By Bob W4VQB

This has nothing to do with the year 2000 problem since it is something we can start using immediately to standardize our way of keeping track of dates for log book entries, QSL cards, contest logs, packet radio headers... This would also apply to dating information on the Internet which, like amateur radio, is international in scope.

You are probably aware of the differences in the way we write our dates as opposed to the way other countries do it i.e. month/day/year versus day/month/year. This confusion doesn't exist in noting time where we put the most significant number, that is hours to the left and followed by minutes, seconds and tenths of a second. However, time standards are another world of confusion regarding local, daylight saving time, universal time (GMT), the 24 hour method and the a.m., p.m. method. Suffice it to say that every good "ham" operator who works DX, keeps his log in the 24 hour format based on UT (the old Greenwich Mean Time) and each station knows how to convert this to his local time. But you surely must have been confused about what month or day something occurred.

Well, there is a standard you could use. It is ISO 8601. An international standard that has been adopted almost everywhere, including our own US Bureau of Standards. It is suggested that the use of this standard will resolve some of the dating problems that will occur in the year 2000. (Yikes! The 2 YK Monster). ISO 8601 wants you to start with a 4 number designation for the year, followed by two numbers for months and two numbers for the days. Or stated another way; yyyy-mm-dd.. This could then be followed by time information. For example; the day Columbus discovered America would be 1492-10-12 which we observe as a holiday in 1998-10-12.

Nobody is suggesting a change in the way you write your personal letters or verbally speak about a certain time. We are talking about a non-confusing way to standardize how we enter data in our computers and amateur radio records. Your friends (?) at Microsoft, IBM, etal, are already using this method with most of them shortening the year data to the last two digits. That is,

Christmas would be 1998-12-25 or 98-12-25. Then in the year 2000 you would use either 2000-12-25 or 00-12-25. The three letter abbreviations for the months are also encouraged for eliminating any misunderstanding, that is 98-Dec-25 or Independence Day in the year 2002 could be written 02-Jul-04.

We Americans are still fighting the metric system, the 24 hour clock and now have been asked to change our date format. What else will they want to cram down our throats?

I hope I have provoked you into further research of this subject. The Internet is full of references. Go to your favorite search engine (Lycos, Yahoo, etc) and enter ISO 8601, Ian Galpins Page, Date Formats...

FEDS HUNT AIRWAVE PRANKSTERS

Interference may pose a danger

By Susan Decker FLORIDA TODAY

PALM BAY - Federal and county officials are trying to figure out who is interfering with radio airwaves in Brevard County.

Amateur radio services, critical during emergencies, were tampered with during a deadly outbreak of tornadoes in February and during the wildfires this summer. Additionally, sanitation trucks have been sent by radio to non-existent jobs, and foul language has interrupted legitimate frequencies.

A Palm Bay man was fined $2500 for interfering with communications - a charge he denies. The problem, which has been going on for two years, has continued. Of particular concern for officials is the interference with amateur radio operations.

"We depent on these systems as backups in emergencies", said Eric Conklin, the county's radio systems coordinator.

The FCC and the Brevard County Sheriff's Office is investigating the interference, which is occurring all over the county but primarily in the southern half. Legitimate operators are licensed by the Federal Communications Commission and are subject to strict regulations on transmitting power, frequency use and other factors.

The pranksters meddle with airwaves in different ways. In one case, a handheld radio was used to jam an amateur radio frequency so no information could be transmitted, said Officer Gus Williams of the Palm Bay Police Departrment.

Amateur radio operators don't want to talk about the problem, saying they fear personal retallation from whoever is interfering with their radios.

Among some of the complaints, according to Conklin, FCC records and police:

- When twisters spread across Central Florida in February, killing 42, tornado warnings did not reach all the amateur radio operators.
- During the wildfires, communications were limited on some days among amateur operators.
- Someone used one of Palm Bay's city frequencies to use foul language, make threatening statements and "generally caused havoc to the frequency."
- Foul language also was broadcast on the Harris Sanitation radio system, as someone dispatched trucks to phony calls and played "gangsta rap" while making threats to Harris workers.

"They had gotten into our system," said Peter Jurgel, general manager of Harris Sanitation. "We couldn't control it. We couldn't stop it." Harris spent $50,000 last year to buy a new radio system to eliminate the problem So far, the problems have not recurred.

Palm Bay resident Jeffrey G. Guss was fined $2,500 earlier this month for interfering with the city's frequencies in February 1997 and with a ham radio repeater in August 1997. A repeater is like a relay station used to send radio signals over long distances.

The FCC's Tampa office traced the August 1997 transmissions to the area of Guss's home in the southwest part of Palm Bay. Guss denied any involvement and said he is appealing the fine.

"The FCC is using me as a scapegoat," Guss said. "The problem is still continuing. They occurred even while I was under observation."

According to FCC records, Guss refused to let FCC inspectors check a van with a radio antenna that was parked across from his home. The equipment that was indicative of a mobile station, records show.

Thus far, none of the emergency frequencies used by police, fire or ambulance crews have been affected, and no one has gotten hurt.

"Not as of yet, but we are still experiencing interference," Conklin said.

CTIA WARNS OF INCREASED FBI SNOOPING

From August Cyberskip

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is trying to increase its powers to eavesdrop on telephone conversations by tacking new provisions on to a major appropriations bill about to go before the federal government, the Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association (CTIA) has warned.

According to the CTIA, the FBI has presented to several key senators a proposal to attach to the Appropriation Measure for Commerce, State and Justice language that would extend the FBI's rights under the existing Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act (CALEA). What the FBI is seeking includes a requirement that wireless carriers provide information about the location of mobile telephones, simply on the strength of a law enforcement agent's claim that the information could be relevant to the investigation of a felony, CTIA spolesman Tim Ayers told Newsbytes.

The FBI also wants to prevent carriers and equipment manufacturers from petitioning the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to rule on whether any FBI demand is reasonable, the CTIA said. Under the CALEA, the FCC can be asked whether a demand made under the act is too costly, would have a negative impact on competition, or would negatively affect subscriber rates. The CTIA claimed that eliminating this recourse would in effect mean the FBI could demand "Compliance at any cost."

Ayers said the FBI is also seeking the right to listen in on conversations even when neither party involved is the subject of a court order, and to capture certain digital information from calls, such as credit-card numbers entered using the telephone keypad.

According to the CTIA, when the CALEA was passed Congress made clear that its purpose was to extend the FBI's existing surveillance powers to new communications technology, not to expand those powers, and FBI officials testified that they understood this. Since then the FBI has stopped industry implementation of CALEA provisions, claiming the authority to require more intrusive surveillance. The current attempt to have its powers extended by new legislation shows that the FBI did not in fact have that authority all along, Ayers said.

NATIONAL ID CARD - HERE WE GO AGAIN

From August Cyberskip

The U. S. Department of Transportation (DOT) issued a notice on June 17 that would effectively turn state drivers' licenses into national identity cards. The proposed rule would require that all states modify their dirvers' licenses to create a uniform national drivers' license. It would prohibit government agencies from accepting any identification besides the authorized identity card.

The proposed rule would also encourage states to include the person's Social Security Number either in written form on the face of the

license or in electronic form of all drivers' licenses. If a state does not wish to include the SSN on the license, it must minimally require every license applicant to provide the number. State agencies would be required to send every such SSN to the Social Security Administration for review.

The DOT is basing its rule on provisions in the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996. Reps. Ron Paul (R-TX) and Bob Barr (R-GA) have introduced H. R. 4217, the Freedom and Privacy Restoration Act of 1998 which would repeal the immigration act's provisions on identification. It would also prohibit federal agencies from "accepting for any identification-related purpose an identification document, if any other Federal agency accepts such document for any such purpose."

More information on the proposed rule is available at:**http://www.epic.org/privacy/id-cards/**

Electronic Privacy Information Center

LETTER FROM BILL, W2SDB.....

Dear Becky, As I mentioned last night at our meeting, I am now playing over two radio stations every week. This time the station is in Syracuse, NY, and here's how it came about:

John Conroff, NT2D, from Syracuse wrote me a while back that they "have a guy who plays the harmonica on the radio like you do". I wrote back for details and the result was that after he called the station (WTLA) and told them about me, they encouraged for me to call them on the phone which I did. I called them on Sept. 29 at 9:30 AM and the program manager, Phil, asked me did I have my harmonica handy which I did and he said, "go ahead and play, you're on the air". I played Bud's favorite 'Red River Valley' and Phil played along on a key board.

The bottom line is that I have been playing ever since on Tuesdays at 9:30 AM. Last Tuesday was my 5th time and Phil is looking for me again next week. I wonder if I'm the only harmonicist in the country that plays weekly over two radio stations.

TARC HAMFEST
By Bud K4CWG

Titusville Amateur Radio Club's 8th annual Ham Fest will be held Saturday, Nov. 14 at Fox Lake Park. The afternoon and evening before (Friday) we will be placing sodas and foodstuff in the walk-in cooler. Also on Friday we will be rearranging the picnic tables as we have in years gone by. John and Bill, KE4ZPA and KR4CQ and their crew will install the PA system.

FRIDAY TIME SCHEDULE:

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM:	Move sodas and food into cooler.
4:00 PM - ?	Set up tables.

Now for the following day (Saturday) even before the sun comes up, the kitchen lights will be glowing. The girls will be busy setting up the serving counter, checking out the grills and of course making that first pot of coffee.

Outside the pavilion the parking crew led by Ken, KB0OQJ will be busy directing traffic and parking the tailgate vendors.

Clara, KF4YQL is in charge of door prize ticket sales. Any ideas of door prizes would be appreciated and of course acquiring the same will be greatly appreciated. Dan and Gail Chycota, KE4MWY and KF4FEX will be assisting Clara.

There will be a lot of activity and fun for everyone. Plan on coming out and working with us. Even if you are not able to lift, shove or punch, your presence is most welcome.

There are many vendors who will need 110 vac. This means we will need an unknown quantity of extension cords. If you have extension cords would you please loan them to our club? Should you permit the club to use your extension cords, use a marker or other means to identify your cords for retrieval purposes. (see page 7)

ABELL'S ANECDOTES

By Pike Abell W4EPU

Fox Hunting (using radio direction finding equipment to locate hidden transmitters) is a lot of fun and games for many of our club members. In fact, it has become a downright obsession for some of us.

I am not a Fox Hunter, but I can use the words "we" and "our": because after all, I am a member of "The Club".

Anyway, it is becoming time to put our expertise and highly accurate and homemade DF equipment to locating and exposing those pranksters who are interfering with amateur radio communications, particularly during emergencies such as the Florida fire storms, deadly outbreaks of tornadoes and hurricanes.

The County radio system depends on amateur radio communications as backup during emergencies. According to an article by Susan Decker in Florida Today, Oct. 22, 1998, someone, for some reason is interfering with radio airways in Brevard County. The article goes on to report that "A Palm Bay man was fined $2500 for interfering with communications - a charge he denies.

"The problem which has been going on for two years has continued. Of particular concern for officials is the interference of amateur radio communications."

Much more information on the subject is contained in the excerpts of Ms Decker's article printed here in this news letter.

I recommend that we (there goes that "we" again) form a committee or team of 'fox hunters' and make ourselves (...) available with our expertise and direction finding equipment to law enforcement agencies and help locate and expose those so-called pranksters.

Amateur radio is a vital part of emergency activities, but we can do our job much better if we can keep the airways as clean as possible.

73s es 88s

OCTOBER MEETING

By Nancy KD4ITX

The regular monthly meeting of the Titusville Amateur Radio Club was called to order at 1905 hrs. by President Bud Hughes K4CWG. Following the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence, 43 members and guests introduced themselves.

Bill W3SDB played Happy Birthday for 22 members celebrating birthdays in October.

Sherry, KF4HTC announced she needs volunteers to help prepare dinner on Tuesday, Nov. 3, for 22+ people of ALERT (Air, Land Emergency Resource Team). They are volunteers from Michigan in Titusville to provide special improvement services to needy families. If you can help her, please give her a call.)

Roe, KF4NKL, announced nominations for TARC officers and board members for the 1999 election. They are as follows:

President	Bud Hughes, K4CWG
V.President	Chris Browning K4ZZZ
	Ozzie Osband, N4SCY
Secretary	Nancy Marsden, KD4IYX
Treasurer	Becky Lee KF4HTB
Board Members	Alan Marsden, KC4UUX
	Abbie Marsden, KF4DTC
	John Renninger, KE4ZPA
	Pat Renninger KF4LTY
	Grant Hahne, KF4IGK
	Ken Denman, KD4HNW
	Roe Weaver, KF4NKL

It was voted on and approved that at the January club meeting the membership will pick a nominating committee for the year 2000. This will give the committee a good opportunity to observe and recruit the leaders for the the new Millenium.

Ralph, AC4LE reported on the preparation for Thursday's Oct. 29 shuttle launch. Everything seems to be in place, but he can always use more volunteers. They will be using the 146.970 for communication.

Bud, K4CWG presented a sample Absentee Ballot for the club members to preview.

The club secretary gave a report on the board meetings that were held in October. At those meetings the Absentee Ballot, honorary members and the upcoming hamfest were discussed.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to make Archie, WN3DHI (2 years), Dave McLean, WB4SIG and Ozzie, N4SCY honorary members. Alan, KC4UUX noted that all the repeater custodians were honorary members except Warren, AF4EA. He made a motion that Warren be made an honorary member and that anyone becoming a repeater custodian will automatically become an honorary member. The motion was seconded and carried.

Clara Abell is chairperson for door prizes and ticket sales for the upcoming hamfest. She needs door prizes. They can be money, gift certificates, plants, tools, etc. Please help get some nice door prizes.

Abbie, KF4DTC announced there will be no 10:00 net Thursday, Oct. 29, due to the Shuttle launch.

Bud encouraged everyone to come out to Fox Lake on November 13 and help set up tables, unload food and just generally set up for the hamfest.

Pike is working on the Ham of the Year Award. Anyone who has any input on this please give Pike a call.

Alan, KC4UUX and Nancy, KD4ITX will chair the Christmas party. It was suggested that instead of the club members having a gift exchange that they bring a new toy for Toys for Tots program. Also, we can have the TV and newspaper there when the Marine Corp receives the toys which will give the TARC some very good publicity.

Ken, KB0OQJ reported the repeater up north is coming together. They hope to have it on the air the second week in December. They need tower (Rome 25). If you have some or know where they might get some of this tower, give Ken a call.

Meeting adjourned at 2105 hours.

TREASURERS REPORT
By Clyde Lee K4EOS

Balance Forward From 1997	$5356.73
Deposits Year to Date	4004.47
TOTAL INCOME	**9361.20**
Expenditures	3890.10
BALANCE AS AT 10/29/98	**5471.10**
FEMA Escrow	1669.38
BALANCE-CLUB FUNDS	**$3801.72**

ORLANDO HAMFEST TICKETS

I HAVE A FEW TICKETS FOR SALE WHICH I WILL BRING TO THE NOVEMBER MEETING. THEY ARE $7.00 ($9.00 AT DOOR). PLEASE BRING EXACT CHANGE TO PURCHASE

CLYDE - K4E0S

TARC HAMFEST (continued from page 5)

If you are thinking of a garage or yard sale, think about renting a table at the TARC hamfest. The items you put on your table need not be radio related. You can display any items you wish. Your table will get very good exposure at the event.

TITUSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
P. O. BOX 73
TITUSVILLE FL 32781-0073

"Commander, how does it feel to be back on earth after six months of weightlessness?"

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Total membership: 252 (182 regular, 59 family,11 honorary)

NEW MEMBERS: KF4ZOL JIMMY EDWARDS

RENEWALS:
KE4BBP BUBBA STITTW1BSO
MAYNARD CHENEY
AA1HB CHARLIE CHENEY
KF4CDK WILLIAM BLUM
KE4IGP JOANNA BLUM
WA4CUO BILL HOSKINSON
KD4DOJ FAYE SKIDMORE
KE4FFA MONA SKIDMORE
N9EZV KEN TENDICK
N9FAB LORRAINE TENDICK
KD4HNW KEN DENMAN
KF4KUN SAM DENMAN
KE4HOD HOWARD ENGLAND
E4HOE FRED HADDAD
KE4GOQ MIKE HADDAD
K4IXU JOHN PITTMAN
WA4JWU ROGER VERBLE
KE4MWY DAN CHYCOTA
KF4FEZ GAIL CHYCOTA
KA4NZM DICK RUFFE
KE4OZD DANNY BURDICK
KE4WJW LORNA BURDICK
KE4OWJ DAVID BURDICK
KE4TKC HARMONY BURDICK
KA0YSO DAVE JACKSON

HAMFESTS:

NOV. 7	SORRENTO
NOV. 14	TITUSVILLE
NOV. 14	PORT ST. LUCIE
NOV.21/22	TAMPA
DEC. 5	OKEECHOBE
DEC. 5	OCALA
DEC.12	LAKE CITY